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10	UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COURT
11	CENTRAL DISTRI	CT OF CALIFORNIA
12	SOUTHER	N DIVISION
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14	CHAILE STEINBERG, Derivatively on Behalf of CORINTHIAN	) Case No. <b>SACV13-01797 RNB</b>
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15	COLLEGES, INC.,	VERIFIED SHAREHOLDER
15 16	Plaintiff, v.	DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT FOR
16	Plaintiff, v.	/
16	Plaintiff, v.  JACK D. MASSIMINO, KENNETH S. ORD, ROBERT D. BOSIC, BETH	DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT FOR BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY, WASTE OF CORPORATE ASSETS.
16 17 18 19	Plaintiff, v.  JACK D. MASSIMINO, KENNETH S. ORD, ROBERT D. BOSIC, BETH A. WILSON, PAUL R. ST. PIERRE, TERRY O. HARTSHORN, HANK ADLER, ROBERT LEE, ALICE T. KANE, JOHN M. DIONISIO,	DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT FOR BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY, WASTE OF CORPORATE ASSETS.
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16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Plaintiff, v.  JACK D. MASSIMINO, KENNETH S. ORD, ROBERT D. BOSIC, BETH A. WILSON, PAUL R. ST. PIERRE, TERRY O. HARTSHORN, HANK ADLER, ROBERT LEE, ALICE T. KANE, JOHN M. DIONISIO, LINDA AREY SKLADANY, TIMOTHY J. SULLIVAN, SHARON P. ROBINSON, and MARC H. MORIAL,  Defendants, -and-  CORINTHIAN COLLEGES, INC., a Delaware corporation,	DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT FOR BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY, WASTE OF CORPORATE ASSETS.
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Plaintiff, v.  JACK D. MASSIMINO, KENNETH S. ORD, ROBERT D. BOSIC, BETH A. WILSON, PAUL R. ST. PIERRE, TERRY O. HARTSHORN, HANK ADLER, ROBERT LEE, ALICE T. KANE, JOHN M. DIONISIO, LINDA AREY SKLADANY, TIMOTHY J. SULLIVAN, SHARON P. ROBINSON, and MARC H. MORIAL,  Defendants, -and-  CORINTHIAN COLLEGES, INC., a	DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT FOR BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY, WASTE OF CORPORATE ASSETS.
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#### NATURE AND SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

- 1. This is a shareholder derivative action brought by plaintiff on behalf of nominal defendant Corinthian Colleges, Inc. ("Corinthian" or the "Company") against certain of its officers and directors. The Individual Defendants (as defined herein) harmed the Company by causing it to violate applicable law concerning the recruitment of students, including, but not limited to, disseminating inflated job placement rates and manipulating loan repayment rates. Further, the practices implemented by the Individual Defendants have caused the Company to come perilously close, if not violate, regulations under Title IV of the Higher Education Act ("HEA"), 20 U.S.C. §1720, et seq. ("Title IV"), the source of over 80% of the Company's tuition revenue. Compounding their breaches of fiduciary duty, the Individual Defendants covered their actions by making and having Corinthian make misleading statements to the public. These violations have cost the Company hundreds of millions of dollars and subjected it to costly lawsuits, including a securities fraud class action.
- 2. Corinthian provides various for-profit educational programs and services. Corinthian is one of the largest for-profit post-secondary education companies in the United States and Canada with more than 81,000 students in more than 100 schools. These schools receive over 80% of their tuition revenue from Title IV programs. Institutions receiving Title IV funding are required to adhere to certain regulations concerning advertising, promotional practices, and the manner in which prospective students are recruited. In addition, in order to receive Title IV funding, educational institutions must be accredited. To maintain accreditation, schools must place at least 65 to 70% of their graduating students in jobs for which their studies prepared them.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The majority of Corinthian's campuses are accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges ("ACCSC") and/or the Accrediting

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3. The Company's job placement metrics are also highly material to the Company's potential students who consider attending the college based upon gaining the necessary skills to find a position that will launch them on a successful career. In light of the above, it is unsurprising that the Company's Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") describes the job placement rate for Corinthian graduates as "the most important metric in the Company."

The Company has a long history of issuing misleading statements 4. about the Company's job placement rates and other "gainful employment" data. In or about 2004, the Attorney General of the State of California began investigating two of the Company's wholly-owned subsidiaries concerning Corinthian's repeated misrepresentations of job placement rates. The California Attorney General eventually brought an action against Corinthian's subsidiaries (the "2007 AG Action"), and in July 2007, the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles entered a final judgment for the 2007 AG Action. Among other things, the court permanently enjoined the Company from making or causing to be made any untrue or misleading statement about the employment or salaries that students will or may obtain after enrolling in or completing any of Corinthian's programs, or failing to provide prospective students with truthful information concerning former students employment, completion rates, and salaries.

Council for Independent Colleges and Schools ("ACICS"). Both accreditors require schools to meet minimum placement rates by school and by program. The ACCSC "Established Benchmark Employment Rate" is 70% and the ACICS standard is 65%. Where Corinthian's job placement rate as a company falls relative to the 65% and 70% requirements set by ACCSC and ACICS is therefore indicative of Corinthian's ability to keep its campuses accredited and, relatedly, its ability to access federal funds.

5. In response to the 2007 AG Action and other actions against Corinthian and its subsidiaries, the Company created a Compliance Committee and instituted numerous corporate reforms that were purportedly designed to: (i) enhance the Company's auditing practices; (ii) prevent the dissemination of misleading statements; and (iii) ensure that the Company's Board of Directors (the "Board") receives relevant information concerning the Company's business practices.

- 6. In spite of the above, a 2013 investigation by the California Attorney General uncovered internal and external Company audits that revealed, among other things: (i) job placement reporting error rates as high as 50%-70%; (ii) files with missing job placement documents; (iii) missing signatures in student employment verifications; (iv) backdating of signatures on job placement files; and (v) self-employment related documents that purported to be provided by the Company's graduates but were in fact created by Corinthian. The California Attorney General also found that the Company's disclosures for "all campuses in California and online campuses does not match or agree with the data in [Corinthian's] own database systems and/or in student files," and that "[i]n numerous cases, the placement rate data in [Corinthian's] files [where available] shows that the placement rate is lower than the advertised rate."
- 7. In addition to overstating its job placement metrics, the Company has repeatedly failed to implement measures to address Corinthian's high student loan default rates. Instead, the Individual Defendants caused or allowed the Company to manipulate federal student loan and grant programs in order to appear to be in compliance with federal regulations. In fact, recent investigations by Senator Tom Harkin, Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, found that the Company aggressively pushes students into deferment or forbearance in attempt to ensure that students default outside of the statutory window in which the United States Department of Education ("Department of Education") monitors

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interest of the students, and often forces students to pay more over the life of the loan. This scheme, combined with Corinthian students' inability to find gainful employment after graduation has led to default rates for Corinthian students that are 64% higher than the rates for all for-profit colleges. As a result, due to various federal loan program eligibility requirements, the Company is at risk of losing its eligibility for federal financial aid.

8. The Company's improper business practices and inflated job placement rates rendered its contemporaneous public statements concerning its regulatory compliance misleading. As a result, the Company has faced numerous state and federal investigations, including investigations by the United States Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the United States Accountability Office ("GAO"), the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), and the Attorney Generals' Offices for the states of California, Massachusetts, Georgia, New York, Oregon, and Illinois. The Company is also now subject to at least one securities fraud class action, multiple student class actions brought by former students, and an action for civil penalties and a permanent injunction by the California Attorney General.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 9. This Court has jurisdiction over all causes of action asserted herein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332(a)(2) in that plaintiff and defendants are citizens of different states and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs. This action is not a collusive action designed to confer jurisdiction on a court of the United States that it would not otherwise have.
- 10. This Court has jurisdiction over each defendant named herein because each defendant is either a corporation that conducts business in and maintains operations in this District, or is an individual who has sufficient minimum contacts

with this District so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction by the District courts permissible under traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

11. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(a) because: (i) Corinthian maintains its principal place of business in this District; (ii) one or more of the defendants either resides in or maintains executive offices in this District; (iii) a substantial portion of the transactions and wrongs complained of herein, including the defendants' primary participation in the wrongful acts detailed herein, and aiding and abetting and conspiracy in violation of fiduciary duties owed to Corinthian, occurred in this District; and (iv) defendants have received substantial compensation in this District by doing business here and engaging in numerous activities that had an effect in this District.

#### THE PARTIES

#### **Plaintiff**

12. Plaintiff Chaile Steinberg was a shareholder of Corinthian at the time of the wrongdoing complained of, has continuously been a shareholder since that time, and is a current Corinthian shareholder. Plaintiff is a citizen of Pennsylvania.

#### Nominal Defendant

13. Nominal defendant Corinthian is a Delaware corporation with principal executive offices located at 6 Hutton Centre Drive, Suite 400, Santa Ana, California. Accordingly, Corinthian is a citizen of Delaware and California. Corinthian is one of the largest for-profit post-secondary education companies in the United States and Canada, serving people who want to acquire career-oriented education. Corinthian offers various diploma programs and associate, bachelor's and master's degrees. The Company's training program areas include healthcare, criminal justice, business, mechanical, trades, and information technology. As of June 30, 2013, Corinthian operated 111 colleges with 81,284 students in twenty-five states and the province of Ontario, Canada.

#### **Defendants**

14. Defendant Jack D. Massimino ("Massimino") is Corinthian's Chairman of the Board and CEO and has been since November 2010 and a director and has been since 1999. Defendant Massimino was also Corinthian's Executive Chairman from July 2009 to November 2010, Chairman of the Board from August 2008 to June 2009, and CEO from November 2004 to July 2009. Defendant Massimino knowingly, recklessly, or with gross negligence made misleading statements in the Company's press releases and public filings concerning the Company's: (i) job placement rates; and (ii) compliance with various regulations. Corinthian paid defendant Massimino the following compensation as an executive:

			Incentive Plan			
		Stock	Option	Compensa-	All Other	
Year	Salary	Awards	Awards	tion	Compensation	Total
2013	\$900,000	\$711,900	\$1,007,307	\$307,395	\$91,257	\$3,017,859
2012	\$900,000	\$425,250	\$487,845	\$1,300,219	\$77,830	\$3,191,144
2011	\$871,291	\$443,756	\$1,516,524	\$517,500	\$64,372	\$3,413,443

Defendant Massimino is a citizen of Utah.

15. Defendant Kenneth S. Ord ("Ord") is Corinthian's Chief Administrative Officer and has been since December 2010 and an Executive Vice President and has been since February 2005. Defendant Ord was also Corinthian's Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") from February 2005 to December 2010. Defendant Ord knowingly, recklessly, or with gross negligence caused or allowed the Company to make misleading statements in the Company's press releases and public filings concerning the Company's: (i) job placement rates; and (ii) compliance with various regulations. Corinthian paid defendant Ord the following compensation as an executive:

		Incentive Plan				
Year	Salary	Stock Awards	Option Awards	Compensa- tion	All Other Compensation	Total
	•				•	
2013	\$530,450	\$137,865	\$195,072	\$141,789	\$26,521	\$1,031,697
2012	\$515,000	\$79,955	\$91,722	\$582,272	\$26,942	\$1,295,891
2011	\$479,934	\$90,859	\$225,793	\$193,125	\$25,538	\$1,015,249

Defendant Ord is a citizen of California.

- 16. Defendant Robert D. Bosic ("Bosic") is Corinthian's Executive Vice President, Operations and has been since January 2011. Defendant Bosic was also Corinthian's Group and Division President of the West Division of Corinthian from June 2009 to January 2011, and served in various other positions within Corinthian for eight years, including General Manager, Regional Vice President of Operations for the Southwest Region, and Campus President at Everest Houston Greenspoint. Defendant Bosic knowingly or recklessly caused or allowed the Company to make misleading statements in the Company's press releases and public filings concerning the Company's: (i) job placement rates; and (ii) compliance with various regulations. Defendant Bosic is a citizen of California.
- of Corinthian and has been since July 2001. She is responsible for overseeing all operational support for accreditation and licensure, curriculum development and quality control, employer development, financial aid, and facilities. Defendant Wilson was also Corinthian's Vice President of Operations from June 1998 to June 2001; Regional Operations Director for Rhodes Colleges, Inc. from May 1998 to June 1998; and Operations Director and Regional Operations Director for Corinthian Schools, Inc. from July 1995 to May 1997. Defendant Wilson knowingly, recklessly, or with gross negligence caused or allowed the Company to make misleading statements in the Company's press releases and public filings concerning the Company's: (i) job placement rates; and (ii) compliance with

various regulations. Corinthian paid defendant Wilson the following compensation as an executive:

Year	Salary	Stock Awards	Option Awards	Incentive Plan Compensation	All Other Compensation	Total
2013	\$451,140	\$117,251	\$165,905	\$100,491	\$42,999	\$877,786
2012	\$438,000	\$68,000	\$78,009	\$412,678	\$43,382	\$1,040,069
2011	\$425,000	\$84,865	\$210,905	\$164,250	\$40,931	\$925,951

Defendant Wilson is a citizen of California.

18. Defendant Paul R. St. Pierre ("St. Pierre") is Corinthian's Vice Chairman of the Board and has been since January 2003 and a director and has been since July 1995. Defendant St. Pierre was also Corinthian's Executive Vice President, Marketing & Admissions from April 1998 to June 2003 and Vice President, Marketing & Admissions from July 1995 to April 1998. Defendant St. Pierre is a member of Corinthian's Compliance Committee and has been since October 2009. Defendant St. Pierre is one of the founders of Corinthian. Defendant St. Pierre knowingly or recklessly made improper statements in the Company's press releases and public filings concerning the Company's: (i) job placement rates; and (ii) compliance with various regulations. Corinthian paid defendant St. Pierre the following compensation as a director:

	Fees Paid in	Stock	
Year	Cash	Awards	Total
2013	\$83,000	\$72,459	\$155,459
2012	\$86,000	\$40,350	\$126,350
2011	\$76,500	\$64,500	\$141,000

Defendant St. Pierre is a citizen of California.

19. Defendant Terry O. Hartshorn ("Hartshorn") is Corinthian's Lead Independent Director and has been since August 2008 and a director and has been since September 2005. Defendant Hartshorn was also Corinthian's Chairman of the Board from December 2006 to August 2008. Defendant Hartshorn is a member of Corinthian's Audit Committee and has been since at least October 2010.

Company's press releases and public filings concerning the Company's: (i) job placement rates; and (ii) compliance with various regulations. Corinthian paid

Defendant Hartshorn knowingly or recklessly made misleading statements in the

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defendant Hartshorn the following compensation as a director:

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Fees Paid in Stock Year Cash **Awards** Total 2013 \$81,500 \$96,612 \$178,112 2012 \$84,500 \$53,800 \$138,300 2011 \$76,500 \$86,000 \$162,500

least October 2010. Defendant Adler knowingly or recklessly made misleading

statements in the Company's press releases and public filings concerning the

Company's: (i) job placement rates; and (ii) compliance with various regulations.

Defendant Hank Adler ("Adler") is a Corinthian director and has been

\$64,500

\$155,750

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Defendant Hartshorn is a citizen of California.

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since August 2004. Defendant Adler is also Chairman of Corinthian's Audit
Committee and a member of the Compliance Committee and has been since at

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 Fees Paid in
 Stock

 Year
 Cash
 Awards
 Total

 2013
 \$98,000
 \$72,459
 \$170,459

 2012
 \$101,000
 \$40,350
 \$141,350

Corinthian paid defendant Adler the following compensation as a director:

\$91,250

Defendant Adler is a citizen of California.

2011

21. Defendant Robert Lee ("Lee") is a Corinthian director and has been since November 2006. Defendant Lee is also a member of Corinthian's Audit Committee and Chairman of the Compliance Committee and has been since at least October 2010. Defendant Lee knowingly or recklessly made misleading statements in the Company's press releases and public filings concerning the Company's: (i) job placement rates; and (ii) compliance with various regulations. Corinthian paid defendant Lee the following compensation as a director:

	Fees Paid in	Stock	
Year	Cash	Awards	Total
2013	\$93,000	\$72,459	\$165,459
2012	\$96,000	\$40,350	\$136,350
2011	\$87,500	\$64,500	\$152,000

Defendant Lee is a citizen of California.

22. Defendant Alice T. Kane ("Kane") is a Corinthian director and has been since July 2005. Defendant Kane is also a member of Corinthian's Compliance Committee and has been since at least October 2010. Defendant Kane knowingly or recklessly made misleading statements in the Company's press releases and public filings concerning the Company's: (i) job placement rates; and (ii) compliance with various regulations. Corinthian paid defendant Kane the following compensation as a director:

	Fees Paid in	Stock		
Year	Cash	<b>Awards</b>	√ Total	
2013	\$99,500	\$72,459	\$171,959	
2012	\$107,000	\$40,350	\$147,350	
2011	\$98,250	\$64,500	\$162,750	

Defendant Kane is a citizen of New York.

23. Defendant John M. Dionisio ("Dionisio") is a Corinthian director and has been since April 2008. Defendant Dionisio is also a member of Corinthian's Audit Committee and has been since at least October 2010. Defendant Dionisio knowingly or recklessly made misleading statements in the Company's press releases and public filings concerning the Company's: (i) job placement rates; and (ii) compliance with various regulations. Corinthian paid defendant Dionisio the following compensation as a director:

	Fees Paid in	Stock	
Year	Cash	Awards	Total
2013	\$81,500	\$72,459	\$153,959
2012	\$92,000	\$40,350	\$132,350
2011	\$79,500	\$64,500	\$144,000

Defendant Linda Arey Skladany ("Skladany") is a Corinthian director

Stock

**Awards** 

\$72,459

\$40,350

\$64,500

Corinthian paid defendant Skladany the following

Total

\$150,459

\$121,350

\$143,750

and has been since February 1999. Defendant Skaldany knowingly or recklessly

made misleading statements in the Company's press releases and public filings

concerning the Company's: (i) job placement rates; and (ii) compliance with

Fees Paid in

Cash

\$78,000

\$81,000

\$79,250

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various regulations.

compensation as a director:

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Defendant Skladany is a citizen of Virginia.

Year

2013

2012

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Defendant Dionisio is a citizen of New York.

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Defendant Timothy J. Sullivan ("Sullivan") is a Corinthian director 25. and has been since January 2008. Defendant Sullivan knowingly or recklessly made misleading statements in the Company's press releases and public filings concerning the Company's: (i) job placement rates; and (ii) compliance with various regulations. Corinthian paid defendant Sullivan the following compensation as a director:

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Fees Paid in Stock Year Cash **Awards Total** 2013 \$84,500 \$72,459 \$156,959 \$93,500 \$133,850 2012 \$40,350 2011 \$79,000 \$64,500 \$143,500

and has been since January 2011. Defendant Robinson knowingly or recklessly

made misleading statements in the Company's press releases and public filings

concerning the Company's: (i) job placement rates; and (ii) compliance with

Defendant Sharon P. Robinson ("Robinson") is a Corinthian director

Defendant Sullivan is a citizen of Virginia.

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various regulations. Corinthian paid defendant Robinson the following compensation as a director:

	Fees Paid in	Stock		
Year	Cash	Awards	Total	
2013	\$73,000	\$72,459	\$145,459	
2012	\$67,500	\$40,350	\$107,850	
2011	\$30,000	\$72,300	\$102,300	

Defendant Robinson is a citizen of the District of Columbia.

27. Defendant Marc H. Morial ("Morial") is a Corinthian director and has Defendant Morial knowingly or recklessly made been since April 2013. misleading statements in the Company's press releases and public filings concerning the Company's: (i) job placement rates; and (ii) compliance with various regulations. Corinthian paid defendant Morial the following compensation as a director:

	Fees Paid in	Stock		
Year	Cash	Awards	Total	
2013	\$15,000	\$46,433	\$61,433	

Defendant Morial is a citizen of New Jersey.

28. The defendants identified in ¶¶14-17 are referred to herein as the "Officer Defendants." The defendants identified in ¶14, 18-27 are referred to herein as the "Director Defendants." The defendants identified in ¶¶19-21, 23 are referred to herein as the "Audit Committee Defendants." The defendants identified in ¶¶18, 20-22 are referred to herein as the "Compliance Committee Defendants." Collectively, the defendants identified in ¶¶14-27 are referred to herein as the "Individual Defendants."

#### **DUTIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS**

## **Fiduciary Duties**

By reason of their positions as officers and directors of the Company, each of the Individual Defendants owed and owe Corinthian and its shareholders

fiduciary obligations of trust, loyalty, good faith, and due care, and were and are required to use their utmost ability to control and manage Corinthian in a fair, just, honest, and equitable manner. The Individual Defendants were and are required to act in furtherance of the best interests of Corinthian and not in furtherance of their personal interest or benefit.

- 30. To discharge their duties, the officers and directors of Corinthian were required to exercise reasonable and prudent supervision over the management, policies, practices, and controls of the financial affairs of the Company. By virtue of such duties, the officers and directors of Corinthian were required to, among other things:
- (a) properly and accurately guide shareholders and analysts as to the true financial condition of the Company at any given time, including making accurate statements about the Company's financial results and prospects and ensuring that the Company maintained an adequate system of financial controls such that the Company's financial reporting would be true and accurate at all times;
- (b) conduct the affairs of the Company in an efficient, business-like manner in compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations so as to make it possible to provide the highest quality performance of its business, to avoid wasting the Company's assets, and to maximize the value of the Company's stock;
- (c) ensure that no inaccurate financial information about Corinthian was released to the public that would tend to artificially inflate Corinthian's stock or that would cause corresponding or greater harm to the Company's value when the truth was revealed;
- (d) ensure that there were sufficient checks, balances, and controls in Corinthian's accounting, finance, and operational functions, and related functions, to prevent accounting irregularities, internal control problems, and/or overstatement of financial prospects;

- (e) properly and accurately guide shareholders and analysts as to the true financial condition of the Company at any given time, including making accurate statements about the Company's financial results and prospects, and ensuring that the Company maintained an adequate system of financial controls such that the Company's financial reporting would be true and accurate at all times; and
- (f) remain informed as to how Corinthian conducts its operations and, upon receipt of notice or information of imprudent or unsound conditions or practices, make reasonable inquiry in connection therewith and take steps to correct such conditions or practices and make such disclosures as necessary to comply with applicable laws.

#### Additional Duties of the Audit Committee Defendants

31. In addition to these duties, under its Charter, as amended and restated in August 2009, the Audit Committee Defendants, defendants Adler, Dionisio, Hartshorn, and Lee, owed specific duties to Corinthian to assist the Board in overseeing: (i) the financial reports and other financial information provided by the Company to any governmental body or the public; (ii) the Company's systems of internal controls regarding finance, accounting, legal compliance, and ethics; and (iii) the Company's auditing, accounting and financial reporting processes. Moreover the Audit Committee's Charter provides that the Audit Committee "shall encourage continuous improvement of, and foster adherence to, the [Company's] policies, procedures and practices at all levels." In relevant part, the Audit Committee Charter provides that the Audit Committee is further required to:

Documents/Reports Review

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(3) Review with financial management and the independent accountants the financial information to be included in any

[Company's]

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financial information disseminated to governmental organizations, and the public satisfy legal requirements.

32. The Audit Committee is required to meet at least four times annually and report the records of its meeting to the Board.

#### Additional Duties of the Compliance Committee Defendants

- 33. In addition to these duties, under its Charter, in effect since at least April 16, 2009, the Compliance Committee Defendants, defendants Adler, Kane, Lee, and St. Pierre, owed specific duties to Corinthian to assist the Board in "fulfilling its corporate governance and oversight responsibilities in relation to the Company's regulatory compliance obligations." In particular, among other things, the Compliance Committee was required:
  - (1) To serve as an independent and objective party to monitor the Company's compliance strategies and outcomes.
  - To provide an open avenue of communication among the (2) Company's employees, senior management and the Board.
  - (3) To review Company processes to ensure that an appropriate framework of policies, procedures, internal controls, reporting, ethical standards and employee accountability is established to achieve regulatory and compliance. This includes reviewing with management the appropriate allocation of resources to achieve the desired results.
  - To review the regular internal reports prepared by (4) Company departments charged appropriate with monitoring and overseeing the Company's compliance efforts.

- (5) To regularly meet with Company management charged with overseeing the Company's compliance efforts, including, without limitation, the [CEO] and other members of the Board who are also executive officers of the Company.
- (6) To review the Company's efforts to nurture a culture of compliance and embed compliance awareness and accountability throughout the Company.
- 34. The Compliance Committee is required to meet at least four times annually and report the records of its meetings to the Board.

#### **Breaches of Duties**

- 35. The conduct of the Individual Defendants complained of herein involves a knowing and culpable violation of their obligations as officers and directors of Corinthian, the absence of good faith on their part, and a reckless disregard for their duties to the Company that the Individual Defendants were aware or reckless in not being aware posed a risk of serious injury to the Company.
- 36. The Individual Defendants breached their duty of loyalty and good faith by allowing defendants to cause, or by themselves causing, the Company to violate applicable federal and state laws and regulations. The Individual Defendants also failed to prevent the other Individual Defendants from taking such illegal actions. In addition, as a result of the defendants' illegal actions and course of conduct, Corinthian is now the subject of numerous government investigations, multiple lawsuits filed on behalf of students misled by the Company's improper recruiting practices, and a securities class action lawsuit. As a result, Corinthian has expended, and will continue to expend, significant sums of money.

### CONSPIRACY, AIDING AND ABETTING, AND CONCERTED ACTION

37. In committing the wrongful acts alleged herein, the Individual Defendants have pursued, or joined in the pursuit of, a common course of conduct,

and have acted in concert with and conspired with one another in furtherance of their common plan or design. In addition to the wrongful conduct herein alleged as giving rise to primary liability, the Individual Defendants further aided and abetted and/or assisted each other in breaching their respective duties.

- 38. During all times relevant hereto, the Individual Defendants, collectively and individually, initiated a course of conduct that was designed to and did: (i) deceive the investing public, including shareholders of Corinthian, regarding the Individual Defendants' management of Corinthian's operations, as well as the Company's job placement rates, availability of programs of study, purported military connections, and quality of internal controls; and (ii) enhance the Individual Defendants' executive and directorial positions at Corinthian and the profits, power, and prestige that the Individual Defendants enjoyed as a result of holding these positions. In furtherance of this plan, conspiracy, and course of conduct, the Individual Defendants, collectively and individually, took the actions set forth herein.
- 39. The Individual Defendants engaged in a conspiracy, common enterprise, and/or common course of conduct. During this time, the Individual Defendants caused the Company to issue misleading financial statements.
- 40. The purpose and effect of the Individual Defendants' conspiracy, common enterprise, and/or common course of conduct was, among other things, to disguise the Individual Defendants' violations of law, breaches of fiduciary duty, waste of corporate assets, and unjust enrichment; and to conceal adverse information concerning the Company's operations, financial condition, and future business prospects.
- 41. The Individual Defendants accomplished their conspiracy, common enterprise, and/or common course of conduct by causing the Company to purposefully or recklessly release misleading statements. Because the actions described herein occurred under the authority of the Board, each of the Individual

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Defendants was a direct, necessary, and substantial participant in the conspiracy, common enterprise, and/or common course of conduct complained of herein.

Each of the Individual Defendants aided and abetted and rendered 42. substantial assistance in the wrongs complained of herein. In taking such actions to substantially assist the commission of the wrongdoing complained of herein, each Individual Defendant acted with knowledge of the primary wrongdoing, substantially assisted in the accomplishment of that wrongdoing, and was aware of his or her overall contribution to and furtherance of the wrongdoing.

#### SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

### **Regulations Under Title IV**

- 43. The for-profit education sector is a multi-billion dollar business with most of its revenues guaranteed by loans its students receive from the federal government. The for-profit education sector—including Corinthian—is currently under severe scrutiny for deceiving investors, the federal government, and its students about its business operations, including, among other things, its fraudulent recruitment tactics and its dismal student loan repayment rates.
- Most of the current scrutiny concerns for-profit schools' compliance with the HEA. The HEA was passed "to strengthen the educational resources of our colleges and universities and to provide financial assistance for students in postsecondary and higher education." It increased federal money given to universities, created scholarships, and gave low-interest loans for students.
- 45. Title IV of the HEA concerns financial assistance for students. The purpose of Title IV was "to assist in making available the benefits of postsecondary education to eligible students ... in institutions of higher education." One way Title IV achieves its stated purpose is by providing grants and loans to low-income students in order to allow them to attend institutions of higher education. However, there are strict regulations that for-profit institutions, like Corinthian's

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27 28 schools, must comply with in order for their programs to be eligible to receive Title IV funding.

- 46. The Department of Education specifies extensive criteria which an institution must meet in order to participate in Title IV programs. The Company's schools and universities must comply with specific standards and procedures set forth in the HEA and the regulations issued thereunder by the Department of Education. In general, an institution must, among other things, be authorized by each state within which it is physically located to offer its educational programs and maintain institutional accreditation by a recognized accrediting agency. The institution also must be certified by the Department of Education to participate in Title IV programs based on a determination that the institution meets certain standards of administrative capability and financial responsibility.
- 47. The Company derives over 80% of its revenues from federal education funds, such as the Pell grant and Stafford loan programs, which assist students in paying for higher education programs. Between 2007 and 2010, the Company tripled the amount of Pell grants it collects, from \$170.2 million in 2007 to \$509.3 million in 2010. Corinthian has continued to receive nearly half a billion dollars in Pell grants every year since, receiving \$487.6 million in fiscal 2011, \$411.3 million in fiscal 2012, and \$431.4 million in fiscal 2013. Because the vast majority of Corinthian's revenues are derived from Title IV programs, the Individual Defendants knew that it would be devastating for the Company and its shareholders if the Company were to lose a substantial amount of Title IV funding.

## Corinthian's History of Fraud, Deception, and Non-Compliance with Applicable Regulations

48. Prior to the wrongdoing alleged herein, Corinthian faced a number of lawsuits accusing the Company of misleading its students and regulators about job placement rates, starting salaries, the quality of its teaching staff and training equipment, the transferability of its course credits, and the accreditation of certain

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of its programs. These actions include, among others: (i) two *qui tam* actions for violations of the False Claims Act, both filed in 2007; (ii) multiple class actions filed by former students, including actions filed in 2002, 2004, 2005, 2009, two in 2010, and two filed in January and February of 2011; (iii) fifteen securities class actions, with eleven filed and subsequently consolidated in 2004 and four filed and subsequently consolidated in 2010; and (iv) at least two derivative actions, filed in 2004 and 2010, respectively.

- 49. Also, in or about 2007, following an extensive investigation, the Attorney General of the State of California brought the 2007 AG Action against two of the Company's wholly-owned subsidiaries concerning Corinthian's repeated misrepresentations of job placement rates. In July 2007, the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles entered a final judgment for the 2007 AG Action. Among other things, the court *permanently enjoined* the Company from making or causing to be made: (i) any untrue or misleading statement about the employment or salaries that students will or may obtain after enrolling in or completing any of Corinthian's programs; (ii) any statement related to Corinthian's own student's employment or salaries that is not substantiated by the Company's records; or (iii) any statement based on information in Corinthian's records that the Company knew or should know is inaccurate. Further, Corinthian was required to pay \$4.3 million to the Attorney General for distribution to students, and cancel \$1.5 million of outstanding credit contract obligations owed to the Company and incurred by students on or after January 1, 2003.
- 50. On August 3, 2010 the GAO issued a report concluding that for-profit educational colleges such as Corinthian had engaged in an illegal and fraudulent course of action designed to recruit students and overcharge the federal government for educational costs. In addition, the GAO investigation revealed serious concerns regarding the academic quality of Corinthian programs, including that the Company had very low academic standards, there was very little

interaction between students and teachers, and that plagiarism and other academic misconduct was not corrected by Corinthian facilities. Thereafter, a Congressional Committee launched an investigation of such practices. The Department of Education released data showing that the loan repayment rates for Corinthian enrollees were well below the level required for federal loan program eligibility and the Company disclosed that its enrollee default rates had significantly increased.

51. On September 28, 2010, Senator Richard J. Durbin spoke directly about Corinthian's deceptive and fraudulent practices. Senator Durbin noted that Department of Education records indicated that a staggering 76% of Corinthian graduates could not pay the principal on their debt. Senator Durbin stated in relevant part:

How are students doing at [Corinthian's] Everest College? Recently, an undercover Government Accountability Office investigator went and took a look. That investigator posed as a potential student and found that the admissions representative at Everest College misrepresented the cost and length of the program and refused to disclose the graduation rate to this so-called potential student - not surprisingly. Do you know why? Because only 15 percent of the student loans are being paid by the students who go to Everest; 85 percent of them are not paying their loans. It shows they are getting into debt they cannot payoff.

Data from the Department of Education indicates that Corinthian, overall - in all their different colleges - has a 24 percent repayment rate. Three out of four students who go to their schools cannot pay the principal on their debt after they finish - three out of four. It is the lowest repayment rate of any publicly traded corporation in this business.

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- 52. Over the course of the following two years, and in response to the GAO report and Congressional investigation, various state and federal authorities began investigating the Company concerning its employment, placement, and student loan default rates, among other related issues. These investigations, which brought a litany of red flags to the Individual Defendants' attention, are summarized below:
- (a) On March 28, 2011, the Company received a letter from the California Attorney General's Office seeking information pursuant to the Stipulated Judgment agreed to by the Company and the California Attorney General in the 2007 AG Action. The letter requested information and documentation related to: (i) the discontinuation of certain programs immediately after the Stipulated Judgment; (ii) numbers of new students, graduating students, and discontinuing students, by program; (iii) marketing and solicitation materials; (iv) enrollment disclosures; (v) graduating students' agreements and employment compensation; (vi) transferability of credit by the Company's former students; (vii) training provided to employees pursuant to the Stipulated Judgment; and (viii) disciplinary actions against certain categories of employees.
- (b) On April 11, 2011, the Company's Everest Institute in Jonesboro, Georgia, was sent a subpoena from the Atlanta office of Department of Education's Office of Inspector General requesting documents related to the Jonesboro campus's employment and placement rates reported to its accrediting agency, as well as correspondence with the accrediting agency. The matter was brought under the supervision of an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia who focuses primarily on civil false claims act matters, including *qui tams*.
- (c) On April 29, 2011, the Company's Everest Institute campuses in Brighton and Chelsea, Massachusetts, received civil investigative demands from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office seeking: (i) information about past

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students who have enrolled in each institution; (ii) the identity of recruiters; (iii) recruiting and enrollment documents; (iv) documentation related to analyses of delinquency, default, drop out, refund, loan forgiveness or reduction, placement, student income, and/or any student's ability to repay loans; and (v) cohort default and graduation rates.

- (d) On May 19, 2011, the Company received a subpoena from the New York Attorney General's Office seeking information on potential issues related to financial aid, admissions, students, securities, and other areas.
- On July 19, 2011, the Company's attorneys met with representatives of the Oregon Attorney General's Office in anticipation of a written request for information related to the Company's Everest Institute campus in Tigard, Oregon, and the Everest College and Herald College campuses in Portland, Oregon. On August 11, 2011, the Company received a civil investigative demand from the Oregon Attorney General requesting information and documents regarding: (i) advertising; (ii) student recruitment; (iii) admissions; (iv) licensure and accreditation; (v) compensation, training, and evaluations of admissions personnel; (vi) job opportunities and placements of graduates; (vii) student complaints; and (viii) various other matters.
- As Corinthian faced increased scrutiny, the Company purportedly 53. instituted various corporate reforms to prevent further wrongdoing. For example, in January 2009, the Board created the Compliance Committee to assist the Board in fulfilling its corporate governance and oversight responsibilities in relation to the Company's regulatory compliance obligations. Specifically the Compliance Committee is responsible for, among other things, "monitor[ing] the Company's compliance strategies and outcomes, ... provid[ing] an open avenue of communication among the Company's employees, senior management, and the Board, ... [and] review[ing] the regular internal reports prepared by appropriate Company departments charged with monitoring and overseeing the Company's

compliance efforts." These purported internal controls enhancements, however, have proved woefully inadequate.

## Defendants' Continue Their Manipulative Recruitment and Job Placement Reporting Practices Amid Increased Scrutiny and Federal Regulations

54. On June 2, 2011, President Barack Obama released financial regulations requiring for-profit colleges such as Corinthian to better prepare students for gainful employment or risk losing access to federal student aid. Under the new regulations, to qualify for federal aid, for-profit colleges are required to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation. According to the Department of Education's news release, "a program would be considered to lead to gainful employment if it meets at least one of the following three metrics: at least 35 percent of former students are repaying their loans (defined as reducing the loan balance by at least \$1); the estimated annual loan payment of a typical graduate does not exceed 30 percent of his or her discretionary income; or the estimated annual loan payment of a typical graduate does not exceed 12 percent of his or her total earnings."

55. These regulations were designed to ramp up over a three-year period, giving colleges time to reform while protecting students and their families from exploitative programs. "These new regulations will help ensure that students at these schools are getting what they pay for: solid preparation for a good job," U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said when announcing the new regulation. "We're giving career colleges every opportunity to reform themselves but we're not letting them off the hook, because too many vulnerable students are being hurt." The new regulations, once adopted, were viewed as a significant regulatory victory for the for-profit sector in general, and for Corinthian in particular, because, among other things, companies like Corinthian had extensive time to identify and fix any problems needed to comply with the expected regulations.

- 56. Despite the government's increased scrutiny into the for-profit education industry, defendants caused the Company to continue its deceptive recruiting and disclosure practices. In particular, defendants reported inaccurate employment statistics following graduation: (i) in order to encourage students to apply to the Company's schools; and (ii) for the Company's schools to remain in good standing with college accreditors and continue to be eligible for federal aid dollars.
- 57. As explained above, to maintain accreditation, schools must place at least 65% of their graduating students in jobs for which their studies prepared them. Defendants were able to report high placement rates and meet minimum placement requirements through an improper course of conduct. A large number of the Company's reported placement figures lacked sufficient supporting documentation. In some cases, there is no evidence that a single student in a program obtained a job during the timeframe specified in the Company's various disclosures. Further, as was revealed by the California Attorney General's recent investigation into the Company, the Company's executives had firsthand knowledge of this misconduct, and were acutely aware that Corinthian had a placement compliance problem. In particular, documents uncovered by the California Attorney General revealed that:
- (a) On or about September 23, 2011, Corinthian's CEO, defendant Massimino, e-mailed a presentation that was to be read by the Executive Leadership Team in advance of an offsite meeting. One of the slides specifically stated: "We have a placement compliance problem now."
- (b) On or about December 7, 2011, the ACCSC sent a letter to the Campus President of Corinthian's Everest College Hayward noting that "39 of the 167 [medical assistant] students reported as employed in field were employed by the same agency, Select Staffing" and that the documentation provided by Everest "did not clearly demonstrate that the employment at Select Staffing constitutes

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sustainable employment in a related field." In response, Everest College Hayward admitted that the positions were health screening fair positions but stated that the positions were valid placements. On or about June 6, 2012, ACCSC sent a followup letter to the Campus President, noting that "the majority of placements with Select Staffing resulted in two days of employment and did not clearly demonstrate that the employment at Select Staffing constitutes 'sustainable' employment for a reasonable period of time in a field related to the graduate's educational program."

- On or about February 10, 2012, Corinthian's Western Division President, Nicole Carnagey, e-mailed the Executive Vice President of Operations, defendant Bosic, to tell him that in 2011 Everest College Hayward and Everest College San Francisco paid a temporary agency, Remedy Temp, "to place students to meet the accreditation deadline and minimum placement %." defendant Bosic responded, asking her to find the answers to numerous questions regarding the placements and noted "This is the [expletive omitted] that got [Everest College] Decatur in trouble and the types of questions that need answering."
- On or about March 20, 2012, An Everest College San Francisco (d) internal audit showing that 53% of student placement files reviewed were missing employment verification forms was e-mailed to defendant Massimino, and other senior executives.
- (e) On or about April 13, 2012, an Everest Online internal audit presentation e-mailed to David Poldoian, Executive Vice President of Corinthian's Online Learning Division, showed a placement file error rate of 53.6% to 70.6%.
- On or about April 27, 2012, Corinthian's Executive Vice (f) President of Operations, defendant Bosic e-mailed all division presidents and stated "the placement verification issues we discussed Monday were shared over the last two days and were not well received. We will discuss Monday, but together we'll need to demonstrate improvement. I will be interested in your

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thoughts on how we can tighten this up so future audits reflect greater accuracy and completion of documents."

- On or about May 12, 2012, defendant Bosic, e-mailed the Chief (g) Administrative Officer, defendant Ord, and Carmella Cassetta, Senior Vice President and President, Online Learning a copy of a presentation regarding placements which stated "No current guidelines and training to define a placement - mistakes are repeated constantly because no clear definition of a placement exists;" and "inconsistent processes on what passes as infield or related [placement]."
- On or about May 18, 2012, Corinthian's Western Division (h) President, Nicole Carnagey and defendant Bosic exchanged e-mails regarding the Renton, Washington, Everest campus's failure of an internal audit due to backdating of signatures on placement files. The e-mails discussed how Everest College Gardena (in California) "almost got hit" as well and saying that "If the current RVPO [Regional Vice President of Operations] was there she would have been in a world of [expletive omitted]." Defendant Bosic also told the Western Division President, Nicole Carnagey that "you are correct that all the other campuses in yours and other divisions that made it through [verification audits] this time are lucky."
- (i) On or about June 14, 2012, defendant Bosic, e-mailed defendant Massimino, regarding the findings of an internal review of placement procedures and stated that the review found that there was a "Lack of workable definitions for a Placement" and that the lack of specific definitions resulted "in subjective decisions at all levels"; that there "is no consistent process for Placement (or other areas of Career Services) and lack of SOP's [Standard Operating Procedures]"; that there "is generally no training at the process level for Placement (since there is no standard process)"; and that "Campus Vue [Corinthian's data management system] is not fully utilized [which] [l]eads to poor

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data or lack of data availability as well as duplication of data across forms and the Placement Verification system."

- On or about July 13, 2012, Corinthian's Vice President of (j) Compliance, Michelle Reed e-mailed defendant Wilson regarding results of a review of Corinthian's WyoTech Long Beach, California, self-employment placements. The review showed that the files for twenty-eight of seventy-four such placements had missing documents, or included Craigslist ads that purported to be from the students in question, but that had in fact been created by Corinthian. An additional fifteen files were suspicious. Despite these known irregularities, as of August 12, 2013, the Long Beach disclosures (published on July 1, 2012) had not been amended to take into account the audit's findings.
- (k) On or about July 16, 2012, Corinthian's Assistant Vice President of Student Outcomes e-mailed Division Presidents regarding Career Services Operating Procedures, with a copy to the Executive Vice President of Operations. The e-mail stated that, "[o]ver the past year, several campuses have had challenges providing adequate documentation for placements and waivers. Issues that have surfaced during audits and Employment Verification reviews are missing key fields such as signatures, inconsistencies with CampusVue / other backup and in some cases, documentation that was never procured or cannot be found."
- (1) On or about August 28, 2012, the results of a third-party audit conducted by Hyper Core solutions on behalf of an accreditor, ACCSC, were emailed to Corinthian's Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer. The review, which examined a random sample of 330 student records showed substantial issues at each Corinthian campus examined (Everest campuses including West Los Angeles, City of Industry, and Reseda, California). In particular, the review found that 30% of the placements could not be verified and that there were no records to substantiate a further 9% of the placements. At

Everest College West Los Angeles, only 30% of criminal justice program placements could be verified and 20% were identified as no record found. At the same campus, only 36% of dental assistant program placements could be verified and 55% were identified as no record found.

- 58. The above, highly material information was disseminated to the Board through, among other avenues, the Company's Compliance Committee which regularly meets with the Board and is charged with "provid[ing] an open avenue of communication among the Company's employees, senior management and the Board" concerning regulatory and legal compliance.
- 59. The California Attorney General's investigation further revealed that Corinthian's own data and files suggest that the Company's job placement rates have been subject to manipulations and assumptions not disclosed to the public, including, but not limited to: (i) the exclusion of data from certain Corinthian schools from placement calculations in order to bring the placement rate higher; (ii) improper inclusion of a substantial number of placements that occurred outside the timeframe specified by the disclosures; (iii) a substantial number of double-counted placements; (iv) a substantial number of unverified placements and waivers; (v) instances of Corinthian paying temporary agencies to employ graduates in order to inflate placement rates; (vi) backdated placement files; (vii) fabricated placement files; and (viii) Company-wide placement verification issues, including a lack of any definitions or standard procedures. As such, these jobs should not have been included in the Company's reported placement figures.
- 60. As Corinthian graduates continued to struggle to find gainful employment, their default rates predictably continued to climb. On July 30, 2012, following a two-year investigation of the for-profit college industry, Senator Tom Harkin, chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee issued a report "For Profit Higher Education: The Failure to Safeguard the Federal Investment and Ensure Student Success" (the "Harkin Report"). The Harkin

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Report highlighted the fact that Corinthian's low quality programs combined with its aggressive lending and recruiting practices resulted in a student body that is underprepared for college, unable to obtain gainful employment, and straddled with debt. The Harkin Report further noted that the Company's students have one of the highest default rates in the country and that Corinthian is at risk of losing its eligibility for federal financial aid as a result. To make matters worse, the Harkin Report found that instead of attempting to address known problems with the students' inability to obtain gainful employment, the Company actively sought to hide the growing default rates by encouraging students to enter deferment and forbearance programs. These temporary relief programs allowed the Company to mask the issue and account for the loans as performing, rather than in default. The Harkin Report stated in relevant part:

Corinthian's default rate has... increased, growing from 22.9 percent for students entering repayment in 2005 to 36.1 percent for students entering repayment in 2008. This is by far the highest default rate of any publicly traded company examined, and the second highest overall. The default rate is 64 percent higher than the rate for all for-profit colleges. While the company's high default rate is likely due in part to the high cost of Corinthian'[s] programs, it also raises serious questions regarding the quality of the programs Corinthian provides, and whether its students who complete programs earn high enough wages to repay the debt they take on. Had the 3-year cohort default rate provision been in effect in 2011, Corinthian would have faced the loss of access to title IV financial aid dollars.

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Corinthian has focused significant resources on finding ways to eliminate students from its reported default rates. Helping get delinquent students into repayment, deferment, or forbearance prior to

default is encouraged by the Department of Education. However, many for-profit colleges appear to be investing in aggressive tactics for the sole purpose of ensuring that borrowers do not default within the 3-year regulatory window.

Default management is primarily accomplished by putting students who have not made payments on their student loans into temporary deferments or forbearances. While the use of deferment and forbearance is fairly widespread throughout the sector, documents produced indicate that a number of companies also pursue default management strategies that include loan counseling, education, and alternative repayment options. Default management contractors are paid to counsel students into repayment options that ensure that students default outside the 2-year, soon to be 3-year, statutory window in which the Department of Education monitors defaults.

Forbearances may not always be in the best interest of the student. This is because during forbearance of Federal loans, as well as during deferment of unsubsidized loans, interest still accrues. The additional interest accrued during the period of forbearance is added to the principal loan balance at the end of the forbearance, with the result that interest then accrues on an even larger balance. Thus, some students will end up paying much more over the life of their loan after a forbearance or deferment.

#### MISLEADING STATEMENTS

61. As noted above, the Company has been permanently enjoined from making any statement related to Corinthian's own student's employment or salaries that is not substantiated by the Company's records, or any statement based on information in Corinthian's records that the Company knew or should know is inaccurate. Further, because of Corinthian's poor compliance history and the more

recent scrutiny of the Company in the wake of numerous investigations, the GAO report, and numerous lawsuits on behalf of students misled by the Company's recruitment practices in the past, defendants were required to be particularly vigilant in monitoring and overseeing the Company's schools' operations, and in particular, their regulatory compliance. Defendants also should have been particularly careful about warning investors of the Company's regulatory risks, and providing investors with accurate information with which to assess these regulatory risks. Instead, however, the defendants repeatedly misled investors with extremely optimistic statements regarding the Company's "focus[] on compliance," which included misleading representations regarding the robust job placement figures that the Company purportedly achieved.

- 62. More, the Compliance Committee ensured that the members of the Board and other top executives were awash in "red flags" that necessarily informed them that Corinthian's placement compliance and recordkeeping was woefully inaccurate and highly manipulated. Nonetheless, the Individual Defendants repeatedly caused or allowed the Company and themselves to improperly boast about Corinthian's robust job placement metrics, which they knew or should have known were unsupported by the Company's own records. The Individual Defendants also repeatedly caused or allowed the Company and themselves to issue misleading statements about Corinthian's purported compliance with various regulations.
- 63. The first misleading statement was issued on August 23, 2011, when the Company issued a press release announcing fiscal 2011 fourth quarter and annual results, and reported fourth quarter net revenue of \$425.2 million, total student population of 93,457, total new students of 24,981, operating income of \$6.7 million and net income of \$3.4 million or \$0.05 per share. The Company also reported annual revenues of \$1.87 billion and a net loss of \$111 million or \$1.28 per share. In the press release, defendant Massimoto touted the Company's

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purported assistance in finding jobs for a "record number" of students in their fields of study. Defendant Massimoto also boasted about steps the Company purportedly took to remain in compliance with the 90/10 Rule<sup>2</sup>. The press release stated in relevant part:

"We navigated through a number of challenges in fiscal 2011 and made progress in several areas," said Jack Massimino, Corinthian chairman and chief executive officer. "We continued to focus on student completion, and we assisted a record number of graduates in finding jobs in their fields of study. In the area of regulatory compliance, we developed and implemented a new compensation front-line program for admissions and student representatives and expanded our disclosures related to completion, placement and program costs. We took steps to remain in compliance with the 90/10 Rule, including a new external student financing program. We also continued to increase the efficiency of our back-end operations, particularly in the area of cohort default management and financial aid processing. As a result, we no longer consider two-year CDRs to be a significant risk for our company.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Corinthian's for-profit educational institutions must comply with the 90/10 Rule. An educational institution will be ineligible to participate in Title IV programs if, for any two consecutive fiscal years, it derives more than 90% of its revenue from Title IV programs. An institution that derives more than 90% of its revenue from Title IV programs for any single fiscal year will be placed on provisional certification for two fiscal years and will be subject to potential sanctions by the Department of Education. Corinthian's educational institutions are required to calculate this percentage at the end of each fiscal year, and if they are not in compliance, they must return any Title IV funds that were received while they were ineligible.

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64. On August 24, 2011 the Company filed its Annual Report for the period ended June 30, 2011 on a Form 10-K with the SEC signed by, defendants Massimino, Ord, St. Pierre, Skladany, Adler, Lee, Sullivan, Dionisio, Kane, Hartshorn, and Robinson. The Form 10-K reiterated the Company's previously reported financial results and financial position. The Form 10-K further noted that "[g]raduate placement outcomes are critical to the success of [Corinthian] schools and their ability to continue to enroll new students," and touted the Company's "solid results" in "help[ing its] graduates find employment." The Form 10-K was filed less than a month before defendant Massimino admitted that Corinthian has "a placement compliance problem now." In addition, despite the Company's inadequate internal controls and lack of reliable job tracking metrics, the Form 10-K proclaimed that "approximately 67.6% of [Corinthian] graduates in calendar year 2010 who were available for placement have been placed in a job for which they were trained by June 30, 2011, using accrediting agency standards." The Form 10-K also stated the following regarding the Company's purported compliance efforts:

As of June 30, 2011, we employed approximately 2,400 admissions representatives who work directly with prospective students to facilitate the admissions process. These representatives interview and advise students interested in specific careers and are a key component of our effort to generate interest in our educational services. We conduct semi-annual student satisfaction surveys at our campuses in the United States in which students have consistently given high marks to our admissions personnel for helpfulness, courtesy and accuracy of information. Because our success is highly dependent on the efficiency and effectiveness of our admissions process, we invest considerable resources to train our admissions representatives in product knowledge, regulatory compliance, and customer service. We

employ various admissions supervisory

and monitoring

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programs, and conduct student surveys which help us ensure compliance with both government regulations and our corporate policies.

As required by their respective regional accrediting agencies, Everest College Phoenix and Heald College are overseen by boards of trustees that include a majority of independent members who review academic integrity and autonomy of the institutions. These governing boards have broad oversight over the schools' programs and operations, set the strategic direction for the institutions, play an active role in policy-making, and review financial resources of their schools to ensure the institution is able to provide a sound educational program. In furtherance of that mission, each board of trustees develops policies appropriate to the needs of the school and works closely with the respective schools' administrations to, among other things, establish a climate for articulating and promoting the educational vision of the schools.

In addition to the program integrity issues specifically addressed above, the final regulations issued by [Department of Education] on October 29, 2010 include provisions regarding the types of statements by an institution or parties related to an institution that constitute prohibited misrepresentation; written agreements between institutions, particularly institutions under common ownership or control; the administration of ability-to-benefit examinations; requirements regarding an institution's return of Title IV program funds; and certain other issues pertaining to a student's eligibility to receive Title IV

program funds. We have modified many of our practices as a result of the final regulations issued on October 29, 2010.

\* \* \*

In order to improve our overall default rates, we have implemented a multi-faceted cohort default prevention program. This program includes the following: a contact management system to assist in reaching students who are no longer in school; an internal department focused primarily on early stage delinquencies; an expanded program of entrance and exit counseling and financial literacy training for current students; and the use of outside firms and internal resources to reach borrowers and assist them in contacting their lenders and getting help with alternatives to default, including income-based repayment, deferral and forbearance.

\* \* \*

Under certain circumstances, an institution may elect to admit non-high school graduates into certain of its programs of study. In such instances, the institution must demonstrate that the student has the "ability to benefit" from the program of study. The basic evaluation method to determine that a student has the ability to benefit from the program is the student's achievement of a minimum score on a test approved by the [Department of Education] and independently administered in accordance with [Department of Education] regulations. In addition to the testing requirements, the [Department of Education] regulations prohibit enrollment of [ability to benefit] students from constituting 50% or more of the total enrollment of the institution to qualify for Title IV funding. None of our colleges that accept [ability to benefit] students has an [ability to benefit] enrollment population that exceeds 50% of the total enrolled

population. As of June 30, 2011, [ability to benefit] students represented approximately 4.3% of our total student population, down from 15.1 % at June 30, 2010.

65. On May 3, 2012, the Company issued a press release announcing fiscal 2012 third quarter results, and reported net revenue of \$424.1 million, a total student population of 96,631, total new students of 29,427, operating income of \$26.1 million, and net income of \$0.11 per share. In the press release, defendant Massimino boasted about the Company's new student enrollment growth but failed to disclose that the growth was in part the result of Corinthian's misleading job placement metrics that were attracting potential students, and that the growth was likely to wane as the truth about the Company's practices was revealed. Defendant Massimino stated in relevant part:

"As anticipated, our new student enrollment growth improved in the third quarter this year compared to the same quarter last year," Massimino said. "The improvement is the result of several factors, including gradual stabilization in ground school new enrollments, continued strong growth at Everest University Online, and a less challenging comparison to the third quarter last year. We expect the rate of new enrollment growth to remain positive in the fourth quarter."

66. On August 20, 2012, the Company issued a press release announcing fiscal 2012 fourth quarter and annual results, and reported fourth quarter net revenue of \$394.8 million, total student population of 91,460, total new students of 25,839, operating income of \$16.4 million and a net loss of \$6.5 million. The Company also reported annual revenues of \$1.6 billion and a net loss of \$10.2 million or \$0.12 per share. The press release stated in relevant part:

"Fiscal 2012 was a year of progress against a backdrop of adapting to regulatory change," said Jack Massimino, Corinthian chairman and

chief executive officer. "We continued to focus on student completion and achieved a slight increase in our graduate placement rate despite a weak economy. We reduced operating expenses to align with our lower student population and took steps to close or sell nine underperforming campuses. We strengthened our financial position by renewing our line of credit on favorable terms, completing a sale-leaseback of five Heald facilities, and extending by two years our student lending agreement with ASFG. We continued to increase the efficiency of our back-end operations by completing the implementation of our common student information system at Heald. financial brought student aid processing in-house and We substantially reduced bad debt as a percent of revenue. We also made progress in cohort default prevention and as a result, no longer consider two-year or three-year cohort default rates to pose an immediate risk to our company. On the regulatory front, we continued to implement policies and procedures in response to new federal regulations and remained focused on compliance."

67. Also on August 20, 2012, the Company held an earnings conference call with investors to discuss the quarterly and annual results for the recently ended period. During the call, defendant Massimino again stated that more than two-thirds of Corinthian graduates found employment in their fields of study. Defendant Massimino made these statements just five months after receiving an internal audit demonstrating that at least one of Corinthian's colleges was missing employment verification forms for 53% of student placement files. These statements were made just over two months after defendant Massimino (and through the Compliance Committee, the Individual Defendants) learned that an internal review of placement procedures found: (i) a "[l]ack of workable definitions for a Placement;" (ii) "no consistent process for Placement ... and lack of SOPs

[Standard Operating Procedures];" (iii) "generally no training at the process level for Placement;" and (iv) "duplication of data across forms and the Placement Verification system." Defendant Massimino further touted the Company's purported transition to new federal regulations and focus on compliance. Defendant Massimino stated in relevant part:

We made considerable operational progress in fiscal 2012 while continuing our transition to new federal regulations.... In light of this challenging economic environment, we're very pleased to report that more than two-thirds of our nearly 49,000 graduates in calendar year 2011 found jobs in the fields for which they were trained.

\* \* \*

We implemented policies and procedures in response to new regulatory requirements in a number of areas, primarily marketing, admissions, and student finance. We continued to focus on improving the student value proposition while complying with the 90/10 Rule.

\* \* \*

For students who graduated in calendar 2011, 68.1% or more than 33,000 graduates found employment in their fields of study. This is up slightly from 67.6% in the previous year, and the current run rate for calendar 2012 grads is higher than in 2011.

\* \* \*

We're making the transition to new federal regulations and remain focused on compliance. We have a number of initiatives in place to help address the loss of ability-to-benefit students and generate positive new enrollment growth beginning in the back half of fiscal 2013.

68. On or about August 20, 2012 and October 31, 2012, Corinthian provided quarterly presentations to investors that improperly touted that "CY

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[Calendar Year] 11 placement 68.1% vs. 67.6% in CY 10." The presentations did not reveal the Company's continuing struggle to accurately measure job placement metrics.

- 69. On August 24, 2012 the Company filed its Annual Report for the period ended June 30, 2012 on a Form 10-K with the SEC signed by defendants Massimino, St. Pierre, Skladany, Adler, Lee, Sullivan, Dionisio, Kane, Hartshorn, and Robinson. The Form 10-K reiterated the Company's previously reported financial results and financial position, and stated that almost 70% of Corinthian's 2011 graduates were placed in a job for which they were trained by June 30, 2012. The Form 10-K further stated that job placement rates were purportedly determined "using accrediting agency standards," but failed to disclose the Company's woefully inadequate record keeping policies.
- 70. On or about January 31, 2013, the Company held an earnings conference call with investors. During the call, defendant Massimino stated that the Company expected to increase its already "solid results" and placement rate for 2012. Defendant Massimino again failed to disclose that Corinthian's numbers were likely inflated as a result of the Company's abysmal job placement tracking methods. Defendant Massimino stated in relevant part:

In the area of placement, we continue to achieve solid results for the 2012 cohort graduates. We currently expect our calendar 2012 placement rate to meet or slightly exceed our placement rate in calendar 2011, which was 68.1%.

71. On March 11, 2013, Corinthian held a conference call with investors. During the call, defendant Massimino touted the Company's "remarkable job" of placing students in gainful employment. Defendant Massimino further boasted that the Company was "very tight on [the Company's] definitions" relating to placing students in the areas Corinthian trained them for. Defendant Massimino

also again stated that the Company's placement rates were nearly 70%. In relevant part, defendant Massimino stated:

This is just a quick slide on information we've given you over the years around graduation and placement. And one of the things we are pretty proud of is in a pretty difficult time, we have done a pretty remarkable job in terms of placement. We have over 800 placement people in our organization today helping our students get jobs in the areas we trained them for. We are very tight on our definitions. And so if you're a medical assistant, for example, with us, and you get a job at a doctor's office, a hospital, those count. If you get a job as an aid in a nursing home, that does not count even though you're making \$10 to \$12 an hour. So we're very tight on our definitions around what is and what isn't included in our placements.

We've been averaging, over the course of this very difficult time, up to around 68%, 69%. And we're about there again this year.

- 72. On April 30, 2013, the Company issued a press release announcing fiscal 2013 third quarter results, and reported net revenue of \$400.2 million, total student population of 87,776, total new students of 26,738, and operating income of \$12.6 million.
- 73. Also on April 30, 2013, the Company held an earnings conference call with investors to discuss the results from the recently ended period. During the call, defendant Massimino stated that the Company had a "robust, in-house cohort default defensive program" including "counseling related to repayment options and early intervention in the default process." Defendant Massimino failed to disclose that the Company was in fact merely pushing students into deferment or forbearance in attempt to ensure that students default outside of the statutory window in which the Department of Education monitors defaults. Defendant Massimino stated in relevant part:

As we reported in an 8-K on March 25, the weighted average for our institutions was 19%, well below the federal threshold of 30% and 9.2 percentage points below the 28.2% reported for the preliminary three-year measurement of the 2009 cohort. We've achieved this improvement in part by establishing a robust, in-house cohort default defensive program. Our program includes financial literacy training provided to students while they are in school, counseling related to repayment options and early intervention in the default process.

- 74. On April 30, 2013, the Company also filed its quarterly report for the period ended March 31, 2013 on a Form 10-Q with the SEC reiterating the Company's previously reported financial results and financial position.
- 75. Commensurate with the above noted January 31, 2013, March 11, 2013, and April 30, 2013, earnings conference calls, Corinthian provided presentations to investors improperly touting the Company's purported "[f]ocus on employment" and stating that that 33,316 of 48,930 eligible graduates in the 2011 graduation cohort were "[p]laced in [f]ield."

# THE INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS CONTINUE TO MAKE FALSE STATEMENTS WHILE THE TRUTH SLOWLY EMERGES

76. On June 10, 2013, the Company filed a Current Report on Form 8-K with the SEC disclosing that it received a subpoena from the SEC. The press release further disclosed that the SEC is conducting an investigation of the Company related to student recruitment, attendance, completion, placement, defaults on loans, as well as the Company's compliance with Department of Education financial requirements, standards and ratios (including the effect of certain borrowings under the Company's credit facility on the Company's

composite score, and 90/10 Rule compliance), and other corporate, operational, financial, and accounting matters.

- 77. The following day, Corinthian's market capitalization fell nearly 11.47%, erasing \$28.4 million in market capitalization overnight.
- 78. On September 3, 2013, the Company filed its Annual Report on a Form 10-K with the SEC. Despite the countless investigations and actions against Corinthian to the contrary, the Company continues to maintain that "the efforts [it] devote[s] to help [Corinthian] graduates find employment have achieved solid results in a difficult economic environment." The Company also continues to boast a job placement rate of "approximately 69%." The Form 10-K was signed by defendants Massimino, St. Pierre, Skladany, Adler, Lee, Sullivan, Dionisio, Kane, Hartshorn, Robinson, and Morial.

#### REASONS THE STATEMENTS WERE MISLEADING

- 79. Throughout the relevant period, the Individual Defendants knew, consciously disregarded, or were reckless in not knowing that the Company was permanently enjoined from making any statement related to Corinthian's own student's employment or salaries that is not substantiated by the Company's records, or any statement based on information in Corinthian's records that the Company knew or should know is inaccurate.
- 80. The Individual Defendants also knew, consciously disregarded, or were reckless in not knowing that the Company's job placement tracking and reporting was woefully inadequate and subject to significant manipulation.
- 81. Further, the Individual Defendants knew, consciously disregarded, or were reckless in not knowing that, contrary to their public statements, the Company's practices included reporting inaccurate and/or misleading job placement statistics.
- 82. Similarly, the Individual Defendants knew, consciously disregarded, or were reckless in not knowing that, contrary to their public statements, the

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 disseminated misleading public statements concerning the Company's job placement rates, compliance with various regulations, and quality of internal controls.

85. Corinthian's misleading statements also damaged its reputation within

# Company's practices included reporting misleading statements concerning its regulation compliance and efforts to lower default rates.

- 83. Finally, the Individual Defendants knew, consciously disregarded, or were reckless in not knowing that the Company failed to maintain proper internal controls to prevent job placement statistics and regulation compliance matters from being misleadingly reported.
  - DAMAGES TO CORINTHIAN

    As a result of the Individual Defendants' improprieties, Corinthian

- 85. Corinthian's misleading statements also damaged its reputation within the business community and in the capital markets. The Company's job placement metrics are highly material to the Company's potential students who are seeking to gain skills and find a position that will help them launch a successful career. Potential students are far less likely to enroll in Corinthian programs with knowledge that the Company overstates its job placement metrics. More, investors are far less likely to invest in a company that cannot accurately measure "the most important metric in the Company." Corinthian's ability to raise equity capital or debt on favorable terms in the future is now impaired. In addition, the Company stands to incur higher marginal costs of capital and debt because the improper statements and misleading projections disseminated by the Individual Defendants have materially increased the perceived risks of investing in and lending money to the Company.
- 86. Further, as a direct and proximate result of the Individual Defendants' actions, Corinthian has expended, and will continue to expend, significant sums of money. Such expenditures include, but are not limited to:

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- costs incurred in investigating, defending, and settling and/or (a) paying a judgment in the pending securities fraud class action and 2007 AG Action;
- potentially hundreds of millions of dollars in settlement or to (b) satisfy an adverse judgment;
- legal fees, settlements, and/or judgments in the litany of lawsuits filed against the Company by students misled by the Company's improper recruiting practices and inaccurate job placement statistics;
  - costs incurred in responding to the SEC subpoena; (d)
- costs incurred in potentially refunding tuition to students if the (e) school they attended loses its accreditation;
- costs incurred from responding to the investigations of states' (f) Attorney's General;
- amounts paid to outside lawyers, accountants, and investigators (g) in connection with any internal investigations into its improper business practices;
- (h) costs incurred from the increased level of government scrutiny and oversight the Company must endure in order to maintain their schools' accreditation; and
- costs incurred from compensation and benefits paid to the (i) defendants who have breached their duties to Corinthian.

#### DERIVATIVE AND DEMAND FUTILITY ALLEGATIONS

Plaintiff brings this action derivatively in the right and for the benefit 87. of Corinthian to redress injuries suffered, and to be suffered, by Corinthian as a direct result of breaches of fiduciary duty, waste of corporate assets, and unjust enrichment, as well as the aiding and abetting thereof, by the Individual Defendants. Corinthian is named as a nominal defendant solely in a derivative capacity. This is not a collusive action to confer jurisdiction on this Court that it would not otherwise have.

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88. Plaintiff will adequately and fairly represent the interests of Corinthian in enforcing and prosecuting its rights.

- 89. Plaintiff was a shareholder of Corinthian at the time of the wrongdoing complained of, has continuously been a shareholder since that time, and is a current Corinthian shareholder.
- 90. The current Board of Corinthian consists of the following eleven individuals: defendants Massimino, St. Pierre, Hartshorn, Adler, Lee, Kane, Dionisio, Skladany, Sullivan, Robinson, and Morial. Plaintiff has not made any demand on the present Board to institute this action because such a demand would be a futile, wasteful, and useless act, as set forth below.

Demand Is Excused Because Defendants Massimino, St. Pierre, Hartshorn, Adler, Lee, Kane, Dionisio, Skladany, Sullivan, Robinson, and Morial Face a Substantial Likelihood of Liability for Their Misconduct

Corinthian specializes in providing for-profit education and relies substantially on the federal government to loan money to its students to pay for their education. Corinthian's job placement and student loan repayment rates were a forceful indicator of the Company's business condition and the metrics that the Company used to measure its current and future financial performance. Indeed, when the information at issue pertains to a company's core business or service, as it does here, knowledge of that information may be imputed to the entire Board through inference as a matter of law. Further, the Board had a heightened duty to pay close attention to Corinthian's job placement metrics and the accuracy thereof as a result of countless lawsuits regarding the Company's misleading job placement disclosures, federal and state investigations into the Company's misleading job placement disclosures, and a permanent injunction that barred the Company from making any statement related to Corinthian's own student's employment or salaries that is not substantiated by the Company's records, or any statement based on information in Corinthian's records that the Company knew or should know is

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27 28 inaccurate. Thus, each of the members of Corinthian's Board are charged with having knowledge of the issues described herein related to the Company's false and misleading statements about its purportedly successful job placement rates.

- 92. More, the Company's Compliance Committee is charged with "providing an open avenue of communication among the Company's employees, senior management and the Board" concerning regulatory and legal compliance. As a result, the members of the Board were awash in red flags, including: (i) numerous federal and state investigations; (ii) numerous lawsuits against the Company alleging that Corinthian misled its students and regulators about job placement rates, the quality of its teaching staff and training equipment, the transferability of its course credits, and the accreditation of certain of its programs; and, (iii) a litany of internal communications between top executives at the Company, including its Chairman of the Board, defendant Massimino regarding woefully inadequate job placement tracking and rampant file manipulations. These red flags necessarily informed each of the Board members of the rampant violations taking place within the Company, including with respect to: (i) Corinthian's "placement compliance problem," (ii) a lack of definitions, training, and standard operating procedures in placement evaluations; and (iii) internal and external audits revealing numerous files with missing or inadequate documents supporting job placement and massive placement error rates.
- 93. Given the duties placed on the Company's Board as described above, to the extent any of the Individual Defendants did not have actual knowledge of the extensive violations of the permanent injunction, such lack of knowledge could only be the product of willful blindness that constitutes a bad faith breach of their fiduciary duties.
- As alleged above, defendants Massimino, St. Pierre, Hartshorn, Adler, Lee, Kane, Dionisio, Skladany, Sullivan, Robinson, and Morial, comprising the entire Board, breached their fiduciary duty of loyalty by making misleading

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statements in the Company's Forms 10-K regarding Corinthian's job placement rates and purported regulatory compliance efforts. Thus, demand is futile as to the Director Defendants.

- 95. The Director Defendants, as members of Corinthian's Board, each knew, failed to act in the face of a known duty to act, and/or were grossly negligent when they allowed the Company to issue public statements, press releases, and filings with the SEC regarding the Company's job placement and loan repayment rates. Moreover, the Director Defendants each knew and/or failed to act in the face of a known duty to act by allowing this materially false and misleading information to be disseminated to the investing public. The Director Defendants knowingly and with conscious disregard participated in the dissemination of this deceptive information. Thus, demand is futile as to the Director Defendants.
- 96. Defendants Adler, Dionisio, Hartshorn, and Lee, as members of the Audit Committee, reviewed and approved the misleading statements and earnings The Audit Committee's Charter provides that it is responsible for compliance with accounting, legal, and regulatory requirements. Thus, the Audit Committee Defendants were responsible for knowingly or recklessly allowing the misleading statements related to the Company's earnings guidance and financial and disclosure controls. Moreover, the Audit Committee Defendants reviewed and approved the misleading press releases made to the public. Despite their knowledge or reckless disregard, the Audit Committee Defendants caused these misleading statements. Accordingly, the Audit Committee Defendants breached their fiduciary duty of loyalty and good faith because they participated in the wrongdoing described herein. Thus, the Audit Committee Defendants face a substantial likelihood of liability for their breach of fiduciary duties so any demand upon them is futile.
- 97. Defendants Adler, Kane, Lee, and St. Pierre, as members of the Compliance Committee, were required to: (i) monitor and oversee the Company's

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regulatory compliance efforts; (ii) ensure that an appropriate framework of policies, procedures, internal controls, reporting, ethical standards and employee accountability is established to achieve regulatory and legal compliance; and (iii) embed compliance awareness and accountability throughout the Company. Despite these duties, the Compliance Committee Defendants caused or allowed the Company to conceal its non-compliance with minimum job placement requirements, fail to comply with various federal and state regulations, including Title IV and gainful employment regulations, and engage in illicit and manipulative recruiting tactics.

- 98. Moreover, despite the Individual Defendants having knowledge of the claims and causes of action raised by plaintiff, the current Board has failed and refused to seek to recover for Corinthian for any of the wrongdoing alleged by plaintiff herein.
- 99. Plaintiff has not made any demand on the other shareholders of Corinthian to institute this action since such demand would be a futile and useless act for at least the following reasons:
- (a) Corinthian is a publicly held company with over 86.4 million shares of common stock outstanding and thousands of shareholders;
- (b) making demand on such a large number of shareholders would be impossible for plaintiff who has no way of finding out the names, addresses, or phone numbers of shareholders; and
- making demand on all shareholders would force plaintiff to (c) incur excessive expenses, assuming all shareholders could be individually identified.

#### **COUNT I**

### Against the Individual Defendants for Breach of Fiduciary Duty

100. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

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The Individual Defendants owed and owe Corinthian fiduciary obligations. By reason of their fiduciary relationships, the Individual Defendants owed and owe Corinthian the highest obligation of good faith, fair dealing, loyalty, and due care.

- 102. The Individual Defendants and each of them, violated and breached their fiduciary duties of candor, good faith, and loyalty. More specifically, the Individual Defendants violated their duty of good faith by creating a culture of lawlessness within Corinthian, and/or consciously failing to prevent to Company from engaging in the unlawful acts complained of herein.
- 103. The Officer Defendants breached their duty of loyalty by knowingly, recklessly, or with gross negligence causing and/or allowing the Company to make misleading statements in the Company's Forms 10-K concerning the Company's job placement rates and compliance with regulatory law. Defendant Massimino breached his duty of loyalty by knowingly, recklessly, or with gross negligence making misleading statements in the Company's conference calls, press releases, and public filings concerning the Company's job placement rates and compliance with regulatory law. The Officer Defendants breached their duty of loyalty by knowingly, recklessly, or with gross negligence by failing to implement adequate internal controls and procedures to ensure the accuracy of the Company's disclosures.
- 104. The Director Defendants breached their duty of loyalty by knowingly or recklessly making misleading statements in the Company's Forms 10-K concerning the Company's job placement rates and compliance with regulatory law. Furthermore, the Director Defendants breached their fiduciary duty of loyalty by failing to ensure that an adequate system of internal controls was in place. The Director Defendants breached their duty by either knowingly or recklessly ignoring the Company's compliance with regulatory law, and allowing these issues to continue unabated.

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105. The Audit Committee Defendants, Adler, Dionisio, Hartshorn, and Lee, breached their fiduciary duty of loyalty by knowingly or recklessly overseeing and allowing the Company's improper practices and implementation of a business model that put the Company at risk of losing accreditation and federal funding for its schools. This constituted a violation of the duties of the members of the Audit Committee under its Charter. In addition, defendants Adler, Dionisio, Hartshorn, and Lee, as members of the Audit Committee, reviewed and approved the misleading statements regarding the Company's job placement statistics.

106. The Compliance Committee Defendants, Adler, Kane, Lee, and St. Pierre breached their fiduciary duty of loyalty by causing or allowing the Company to conceal its non-compliance with minimum job placement requirements, fail to comply with various federal and state regulations, including Title IV and gainful employment regulations, and engage in illicit and manipulative recruiting tactics.

- 107. As a direct and proximate result of the Individual Defendants' breaches of their fiduciary obligations, Corinthian has sustained significant damages, as alleged herein. As a result of the misconduct alleged herein, these defendants are liable to the Company.
  - 108. Plaintiff, on behalf of Corinthian, has no adequate remedy at law.

#### **COUNT II**

#### Against the Individual Defendants for Waste of Corporate Assets

- 109. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.
- 110. As a result of the misconduct described above, the Individual Defendants have caused Corinthian to waste its assets by paying improper compensation and bonuses to certain of its executive officers and directors that breached their fiduciary duty.
- 111. As a result of the waste of corporate assets, the Individual Defendants are liable to the Company.

### 112. Plaintiff, on behalf of Corinthian, has no adequate remedy at law.

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#### **COUNT III**

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### Against the Individual Defendants for Unjust Enrichment

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113. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

114. By their wrongful acts and omissions, the Individual Defendants were

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unjustly enriched at the expense of and to the detriment of Corinthian. Individual Defendants were unjustly enriched as a result of the compensation and

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director remuneration they received while breaching fiduciary duties owed to

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115. Plaintiff, as a shareholder and representative of Corinthian, seeks

restitution from these defendants, and each of them, and seeks an order of this Court disgorging all profits, benefits, and other compensation obtained by these

defendants, and each of them, from their wrongful conduct and fiduciary breaches.

116. Plaintiff, on behalf of Corinthian, has no adequate remedy at law.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, plaintiff, on behalf of Corinthian, demands judgment as follows:

- Against all of the defendants and in favor of the Company for the amount of damages sustained by the Company as a result of the defendants' breaches of fiduciary duties, waste of corporate assets, and unjust enrichment;
- B. Directing Corinthian to take all necessary actions to reform and improve its corporate governance and internal procedures to comply with applicable laws and to protect Corinthian and its shareholders from a repeat of the damaging events described herein, including, but not limited to, putting forward for shareholder vote, resolutions for amendments to the Company's By-Laws or Articles of Incorporation and taking such other action as may be necessary to place before shareholders for a vote of the following Corporate Governance Policies:

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- 1. a provision to permit the shareholders of Corinthian to nominate and appoint at least three directors to the Board;
- 2. a proposal to ensure that the newly appointed directors define and implement the establishment, maintenance, and oversight of the Company's Title IV compliance;
- 3. a proposal to ensure that the newly appointed directors define and implement measures to strengthen the Company's disclosure controls and procedures; and
- a proposal to ensure that the newly appointed directors define and implement measures to strengthen the Board's supervision of operations and develop and implement procedures for greater shareholder input into the policies and guidelines of the Board;
- C. Extraordinary equitable and/or injunctive relief as permitted by law, equity, and state statutory provisions sued hereunder, including attaching, impounding, imposing a constructive trust on, or otherwise restricting the proceeds of defendants' trading activities or their other assets so as to assure that plaintiff on behalf of Corinthian has an effective remedy;
- Awarding to Corinthian restitution from defendants, and each of them, D. and ordering disgorgement of all profits, benefits, and other compensation obtained by the defendants;
- E. Awarding to plaintiff the costs and disbursements of the action, including reasonable attorneys' fees, accountants' and experts' fees, costs, and expenses; and
- F. Granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Cas	8:13-cv-01797-RNB Document 1 Filed 11/14/13 Page 56 of 60 Page ID #:56										
1	JURY DEMAND										
2	Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.										
3	Dated: November 14, 2013 ROBBINS ARROYO LLP										
4	BRIAN J. ROBBINS										
5	CRAIG W. SMITH SHANE P. SANDERS										
6	JULIA M. WILLIAMS										
7	Brian J. Robbin -/permasiur DOD										
8											
9	600 B Street, Suite 1900 San Diego, CA 92101										
	San Diego, CA 92101 Telephone: (619) 525-3990 Facsimile: (619) 525-3991 brobbins@robbinsarroyo.com										
10	brobbins@robbinsarroyo.com csmith@robbinsarroyo.com										
11	csmith@robbinsarroyo.com ssanders@robbinsarroyo.com jwilliams@robbinsarroyo.com										
12	MORGAN & MORGAN, P.A. PETER G. SAFIRSTEIN										
13	GEORGE PRESSLY										
14	28 West 44th Street, Suite 2001 New York, NY 10036										
15	New York, NY 10036 Telephone: (800) 631-6234 Facsimile: (800) 381-2964 Psaferstein@morgansecuritieslaw.com Gpressly@morgansecuritieslaw.com										
16	Psaterstein@morgansecuritieslaw.com Gpressly@morgansecuritieslaw.com										
17	Attorneys for Plaintiff										
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	SHAREHOLDER DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT										

#### **VERIFICATION**

1. Chaile Steinberg, hereby declare as follows:

I am the plaintiff in the within entitled action. I have read the Verified Shareholder Derivative Complaint for Breach of Fiduciary Duty, Waste of Corporate Assets, and Unjust Enrichment. Based upon discussions with and reliance upon my counsel, and as to those facts of which I have personal knowledge, the Complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed and Accepted:

Datad

CHAILE SPEINBERG

# Case 8:13-cv-01797-RNB Document 1 Filed 11/14/13 Page 58 of 60 Page ID #:58 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself ) DEFENDANTS (Check box if you are representing yourself ) JACK D. MASSIMINO, KENNETH S. ORD, ROBERT D. BOSIC, BETH A. WILSON, PAUL R. CHAILE STEINBERG, Derivatively on Behalf of CORINTHIAN COLLEGES, INC., ST. PIERRE, TERRY O. HARTSHORN, HANK ADLER, ROBERT LEE, ALICE T. KANE, JOHN M. DIONISIO, LINDA AREY SKLADANY, TIMOTHY J. SULLIVAN, et al. (b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you (b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you are representing yourself, provide same information.) are representing yourself, provide same information.) ROBBINS ARROYO LLP, 600 B Street, San Diego, California 92101; (619) 525-3990 III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES-For Diversity Cases Only II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an X in one box only.) (Place an X in one box for plaintiff and one for defendant) PTF DEF

☐ 4 🗵 4 DEF Incorporated or Principal Place 1. U.S. Government 3. Federal Question (U.S. Citizen of This State of Business in this State Plaintiff Government Not a Party) Citizen of Another State × 2 Incorporated and Principal Place 5 5 of Business in Another State 4. Diversity (Indicate Citizenship 7 2. U.S. Government Citizen or Subject of a 3 3 Foreign Nation □ 6 □ 6 of Parties in Item III) Foreign Country Defendant IV. ORIGIN (Place an X in one box only.) б. Multi-2. Removed from 3. Remanded from 4. Reinstated or 1. Original 5. Transferred from Another District District (Specify) Proceeding State Court Appellate Court Reopened Litigation (Check "Yes" only if demanded in complaint.) V. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: JURY DEMAND: X Yes No MONEY DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT: \$ CLASS ACTION under F.R.Cv.P. 23: Yes X No VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.) 28 U.S.C. §1332; Shareholder Derivative Complaint for Breach of Fiduciary Duty, Waste of Corporate Assets, and Unjust Enrichment VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an X in one box only). IMMIGRATION PRISONER PETITIONS CONTRACT REAL PROPERTY CONT PROPERTY RIGHTS OTHER STATUTES 110 Insurance 462 Naturalization 820 Copyrights 240 Torts to Land 375 False Claims Act Habeas Corpus: Application 245 Tort Product 463 Alien Detainee 400 State 120 Marine 830 Patent Reapportionment Liability 510 Motions to Vacate 465 Other 840 Trademark 130 Miller Act Immigration Actions Sentence 290 All Other Real 1 410 Antitrust Property TORTS 530 General SOCIAL SECURITY 140 Negotiable 430 Banks and Banking TORTS PERSONAL PROPERTY 535 Death Penalty 861 HIA (1395ff) instrument PERSONAL PROPERTY 450 Commerce/ICC 150 Recovery of 370 Other Fraud Other: 862 Black Lung (923) Rates/Etc. Overpayment & 310 Airplane 863 DIWC/DIWW (405 (q)) 371 Truth in Lending Enforcement of 540 Mandamus/Other 460 Deportation 315 Airplane Judgment Product Liability 550 Civil Rights 864 SSID Title XVI 380 Other Personal 470 Racketeer Influ-320 Assault, Libel & Property Damage enced & Corrupt Org. 151 Medicare Act 555 Prison Condition 865 RSI (405 (g)) Slander 385 Property Damage Product Liability 480 Consumer Credit 152 Recovery of 560 Civil Detainee 330 Fed. Employers' FEDERAL TAX SUITS Defaulted Student Conditions of Liability 490 Cable/Sat TV Loan (Excl. Vet.) BANKRUPTCY Confinement 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or 340 Marine FORFEITURE/PENALTY Defendant) 850 Securities/Com-422 Appeal 28 153 Recovery of 345 Marine Product modities/Exchange 871 IRS-Third Party 26 USC 7609 USC 158 Overpayment of 625 Drug Related Liability 890 Other Statutory Vet. Benefits 423 Withdrawal 28 Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 350 Motor Vehicle USC 157 Actions 160 Stockholders' 690 Other 355 Motor Vehicle ☐ 891 Agricultural Acts Suits CIVIL RIGHTS **Product Liability** LABOR 893 Environmental 440 Other Civil Rights 190 Other 360 Other Personal Matters 710 Fair Labor Standards Contract 441 Voting Injury Act 895 Freedom of Info. 362 Personal Injury Med Malpratice 195 Contract 442 Employment Product Liability 720 Labor/Mgmt. 443 Housing/ Relations 896 Arbitration 365 Personal injury-196 Franchise Accomodations Product Liability 740 Railway Labor Act REAL PROPERTY 445 American with 367 Health Care/ 899 Admin. Procedures 751 Family and Medical 210 Land Disabilities-Act/Review of Appeal of Pharmaceutical Leave Act Employment Personal Injury Agency Decision Condemnation 790 Other Labor Product Liability 446 American with 220 Foreclosure Litigation Disabilities-Other 368 Asbestos 950 Constitutionality of 230 Rent Lease & 791 Employee Ret. Inc. State Statutes Personal Injury 448 Education Security Act Ejectment Product Liability **SACV13-01797 RNB** FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Case Number: **CIVIL COVER SHEET** Page 1 of 3 CV-71 (09/13)

# Case 8:10 mm Ed 37A-FES DISTRICTICOURT, CENTRALIDISTRICTICOURT, CENTRALIDISTRI

VIII. VENUE: Your answers to the questions below will determine the division of the Court to which this case will most likely be initially assigned. This initial assignment is subject to change, in accordance with the Court's General Orders, upon review by the Court of your Complaint or Notice of Removal.

Question A: Was this case removed state court?	d from	STATE CASE WAS PENDING IN THE COUNTY OF:					INITIAL DIVISION IN CACD IS:		
Yes X No		Los Angeles					Western		
If "no, " go to Question B. If "yes," che		Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo					Western		
box to the right that applies, enter the corresponding division in response to		Orange					Southern		
Question D, below, and skip to Sectio	n IX.	Riverside or San Bernardino					Eastern		
Question B: Is the United States, o its agencies or employees, a party t action?	9878098	If the United States, or one of its agencies or employees, is a party, is					INITIAL DIVISION IN CACD IS:		
Yes X No		A PLAINTIFF?  Then check the box below for the county in			A DEFENDANT?  Then check the box below for the count				
15 H H		which the majority of DEFENDANTS reside.			which the majority of PLAINTIFFS reside.		Western		
If "no, " go to Question C. If "yes," che box to the right that applies, enter the		Los Angeles  Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis			Los Angeles Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis				
corresponding division in response to Question D, below, and skip to Sectio		Obispo			Obispo		Western		
		Orange		Orange			Southern		
		Riverside or San Bernardino		Riverside or San Bernardino		Eastern			
		Other		Other		Western		ern	
Question C: Location of plaintiffs, defendants, and claims?	A. Los Angele: County	B. Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo Counties	C. Orange C	ounty	D. Riverside or San Bernardino Counties		E. de the Central ct of California	F. Other	
Indicate the location in which a majority of plaintiffs reside:								$\boxtimes$	
Indicate the location in which a majority of defendants reside:			×						
Indicate the location in which a majority of claims arose:			×						
C.1. Is either of the following true?	If so, check	the one that applies:	C.2. Is 6	ither o	f the following true? If s	o, check the	one that applies:		
2 or more answers in Colum		2 or more answers in Column D							
only 1 answer in Column C	and no answe	ers in Column D	only 1 answer in Column D and no answers in Column C						
Your case will init SOUTHE Enter "Southern" in resp	Your case will initially be assigned to the EASTERN DIVISION. Enter "Eastern" in response to Question D, below. If none applies, go to the box below.								
If none applies, answe									
		Your case will i WES Enter "Western" in i	TERN DIVIS	ON.					
		Enter Western III	response to	Questic	on b below.				
Question D: Initial Division?					INITIAL DIVI	SION IN CAC	D		
Enter the initial division determined by Question A, B, or C above:				COLITUEDA					
				SOUTHERN					

CV-71 (09/13) CIVIL COVER SHEET Page 2 of 3

#### Case 8:13-cv-QUNISED STATES CONSTRUCT COTIENT CENTRAL DESTRUCTOOF CALIFORNIAD #:60

#### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

IX(a). IDENTICAL CA	SES: Has this ac	tion been previously filed in this court and dismissed, remanded or closed?	⋉ NO	YES				
If yes, list case num	ber(s):							
IX(b). RELATED CASE	<b>S:</b> Have any case	es been previously filed in this court that are related to the present case?	□ NO	<b>⋉</b> YES				
If yes, list case num	ber(s): Erickson	v. Corinthian Colleges, Inc., et al., No. 2:13-cv-074660GHK-PJW						
Civil cases are deemed	related if a previo	usly filed case and the present case:						
(Check all boxes that app	oly) 🔀 A. Arise i	from the same or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or						
	■ B. Call fo	r determination of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fact;	; or					
	C. For ot	her reasons would entail substantial duplication of labor if heard by different judges; or						
	L	e the same patent, trademark or copyright <u>, and</u> one of the factors identified above in a,		ent.				
Notice to Counsel/Parties: other papers as required by	The CV-71 (JS-44) law. This form, app he Court for the pu	Civil Cover Sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement or over by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required proose of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instruc	ursuant to Local f	vice of pleadings or Rule 3-1 is not filed				
Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of Cause of Action						
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))						
862	→ BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Heal 923)	th and Safety Act	of 1969. (30 U.S.C.				
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))	Social Security A	ct, as amended; plus				
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))						
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed uncamended.	ler Title 16 of the	Social Security Act, as				
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Sec (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))	curity Act, as ame	nded.				

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